that an appreciable portion of the wealth of Nairs had been taken over by Government in the shape of escheated properties and that on account of the fact that Nairs were not encouraged in the public service, the number of Nair pupils attending schools had appreciably gone down in recent years. Then again, the Nairs were very poorly represented in the Secretariat and the Account Office and also in almost every other department in the State. The Member quoted statistics of gazetted officers in the various departments and observed that the Nairs were but poorly represented in every department of the public service. He also quoted certain specific instances where the claims of deserving Nairs were overlooked by Government. The Member observed in particular that the treatment accorded to Nair public servants by certain District Officers, was very unsatisfactory. In conclusion, the Member prayed that the Government be pleased to look into the whole question carefully and redress the grievances set forth by him. He also urged on the attention of Government the necessity for nominating one or two members of the Nair community to represent their interests in the Assembly as was done in the case of the Christians, Ezhavas and Mahomedans.

Mr. Krishnan Madhavan (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that he had nothing to add to what had been said on the subject by the previous speakers.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai Krishna Pillai (Member, Chengannur Taluk) also agreed with what the previous Members had stated and added that he fully endorsed their views and observations.

Dewan's reply.—I do not think that there is any difference of opinion between the Government and the Members who spoke on the subject in regard to the principles that should guide Government in the matter of securing representation of the various communities in the public service. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai who spoke first on the subject conceded that there should be equality of opportunities for all, and that merit and efficiency and the educational progress of the community should be recognised as also its relative importance in the polity of the State. But it must be remembered that inequality of representation in the public service is a thing that may be due to causes which are historical and which cannot be removed in an instant. It is the aim of Government to give equal opportunities in proportion to the importance and the educational fitness and attainments of the various communities. I do not profess to say that there is absolute equality now. No human system is perfect. If specific inequalities are brought to the notice of Government, then it will be the steady aim of the Government to remove them. I do not think that I need say anything more. Public discussion of merits or demerits of individual officers is a matter to be deprecated. As representing Government, I may confidently say that in dealing with the claims of individual officers Government are actuated by the best of intentions.

I recognise the importance of Mr. Gopalan Nair's suggestion that one or two members of the Nair community should be nominated to the Assembly in view to represent questions affecting the community as a whole, and it will receive consideration.

139. Desirability of confining all appointments in the State service to Travancoreans.

Mr. Krishnan Madhavan (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) dwelt at length on the desirability of confining all appointments in the State service to Travancoreans. Though that question had become a common subject of discussion in the press and on the platform for the past so many years, it was a matter for regret that nothing had as yet been done to safeguard the interests of the sons of the soil in the matter of appointment in the State service. It had been the practice, the Member said, from the time of Sir T. Madhava Rao onwards to bring in the relations and friends of the Dewans and to appoint them to responsible posts in the State service. The Member referred to the late Mr. Shangrasubbier who was so good as to appoint only Travancoreans to responsible posts in the public service. He also incidentally referred to the memorial which set forth the disapproval of the Travancoreans regarding the importation of foreigners into the State service, signed by ten thousand

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ad thirty-eight citizens of the State and submitted to His Highness the Maha Raja so early as the 11th January 1891. Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, an endorsement was given to the memorialists, which declared that the actual foreigners in the country who held responsible offices were so few that they did not exceed half a dozen and that His Highness desired to give the petitioners the assurance that he would be happy to advance their interests in every legitimate way and to give effect to their desire. Though such a declaration of policy was made 30 years ago, and though there were a number of Travancoreans available, who had by their intellectual attainments and administrative capacity of a high order proved themselves equal to holding any office in the State, including the headship of the administration, the policy of importing foreigners to hold the office of Dewan and certain other high offices was still being largely pursued, and the number of such importations had only been in the increase in recent years. The Member continued that out of the thirty-seven appointments including the High Court Judges, Dewan Peishkars, Commissioner, Devicolam, the Principal, Arts College and other Heads of Departments, twenty-eight were held by foreigners at the present day. Of the Principal and the Professors of the College, all except the Principal were foreigners, and of the seven Assistant Professors four, and of the eleven Tutors, nine were foreigners, and in the other institutions of the Education Department there were very few Travancoreans who drew a salary of Rs. 100 or above. The Member concluded by saying that, as Travancore was far ahead of British India and other Native States in the matter of education and intellectual equipment, Government might be pleased to lay down a policy declaring that only Travancoreans would be entertained in the State service. He also added that the definition of "subjects of His Highness" in the Travancore Service Regulations was defective and that the term should be so defined as to include only those who were really the subjects of the State.

Dewan's reply.—You have struck a delicate chord. On the propriety of having a Travancorean or a foreigner as Dewan, I do not think I am competent to speak. My being here is not my fault. The general policy that you want Government to adopt, *viz.*, "Travancore for Travancoreans" is a very sound one, and I think it will be assuring to the House if I say that, so long as I am here, that policy will be steadily pursued There may be exceptional circumstances in which the importation of the foreign element may be absolutely necessary for the good of the country itself. Barring such exceptional cases, the policy of Government is "Travancore for Travancoreans."

140. Some suggestions re: Public Service.

Mr. V. R. Gopala Pillai (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) spoke at length about certain defects in the public service of the State and offered a few suggestions for their removal. At the outset he pointed out that the policy of borrowing the services of British officers should be discontinued. To secure on loan the services of British Officers for the headship of the administration of the State had, he stated, become almost a settled policy. The policy of bringing in outsiders for the place of Dewan was justifiable at a time when Travancore was lacking in men of educational qualifications and culture. But now in the State service there were officers of established merit and keen intellect and of sound statesmanship and above all, of vast experience, and competent enough to guide the destinies of the State. The Member also pointed out certain defects resulting from the policy of bringing in foreign officers as Dewans. The tenure of office of the Dewan generally lasted for 5 years, and though he might be an officer of established reputation in British India, in the generality of cases, he was still quite new to Travancore. It took him some time to get himself acquainted with the conditions of the State and the nature and peculiar customs of its people and the details of its administration. By the time he got himself acquainted with those matters, his term of office would come to a close and he would revert to the British service, practically leaving things half done or having done nothing at all. Again, in certain cases in which the interests of the British Government clashed with those of the State, it was very often possible that the foreign Dewan who had a lien on the British service, could not be expected to guard the interests of the State in preference to those of the service

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